

September 25, 1954

Dr. Werner Braun  
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Camp Detrick  
Frederick, Md.

Dear Werner:

Thank you for your letter of September 23. I have already written to Devignat, as you see from the enclosed copy. It might help if you reinforced my letter with your own message to indicate your interest, as I suspect a certain shyness or formality on his part.

I am glad to hear of your return (at least in part) to the academic world. What will you use for a textbook? All joking aside, I am astonished at your willingness to accept such a large enrolment; in your place, I would have set such standards as would be necessary to keep it within reasonable limits. I am sorry we will not see you this December, but there are bound to be many other opportunities.

Esther will write you soon about the heterogeneous "prototrophs". The main consideration probably was that most of the isolates had carried along auxotrophs (probably mostly from the heavy parental seeding; possibly some other recombinant auxotrophs also). Under certain conditions, auxotrophs succeed astonishingly well in maintaining their numbers at a small proportion of prototrophic cells in colonies on synthetic medium.

We are just now beginning to run out of reprints of our lysogenicity paper, in spite of having forwarded many of the requests to you. If the supply at CampDetrick is still sufficient, would it be possible for us to get a few dozen more from you? If necessary, we can repurchase them from other funds.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg